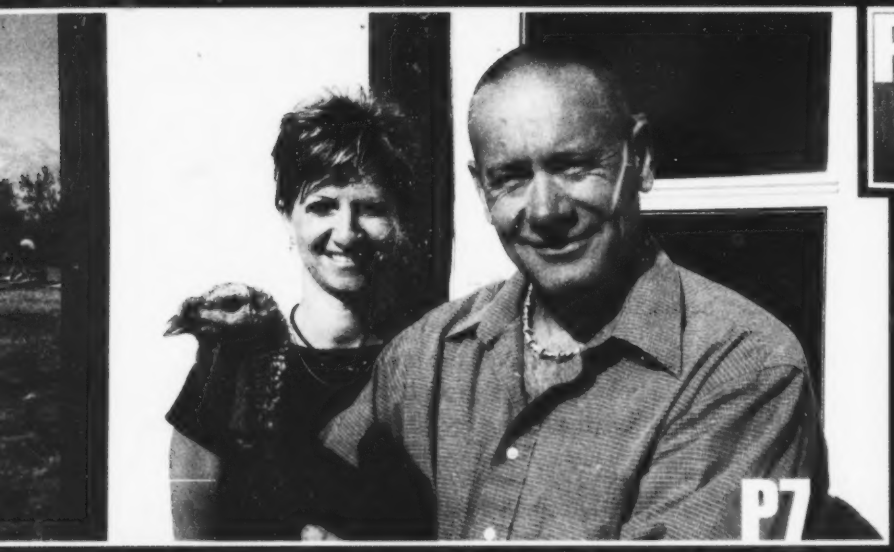
COMMUNITIES AT WORK

ISSUE 4 FALL 2006



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October 2006

Deputy Premier,
Minister of Regional Economic and Co-operative Development

In October, the Province of Saskatchewan celebrates two very important weeks in recognition of the work carried out by two of our economic drivers - small businesses and co-operatives.

Saskatchewan small businesses exemplify our province's grassroots entrepreneurial spirit at its best. They are a foundation for strong communities and employ more than one-third of Saskatchewan's working population.

Saskatchewan has around 38,000 small businesses, which account for more than 90 per cent of total business in the province, operating in all sectors of the economy, from agriculture to leading edge technology, retail and manufacturing. Small business growth holds the potential to create jobs and economic wealth across the province.

Co-operatives contribute to economic success in rural and urban Saskatchewan and are a successful business model. There are currently more than 1,200 co-operatives and credit unions in the province, operating in virtually every economic and social sector including value-added agriculture, retail, finance, insurance, housing, childcare and even fitness centres.

Co-operatives have been a means for individuals and communities to work together to address their collective needs for more than 100 years in Saskatchewan. Most Saskatchewan residents, whether they are aware of it or not, are members of co-operatives. Co-operatives have an exciting and dramatic history in Saskatchewan. Working together for the greater good is, without a doubt, one of the traditions that built this province.

Small Business Week and Co-operatives Week in Saskatchewan are celebrated October 15th to 21st. Please join me in congratulating and thanking Saskatchewan residents working in these areas for their important contributions to the province's prosperity.

Clay Serby

SASKATCHEWAN'S DISTINCT ADVANTAGE IN BIOFUELS

Biofuels. They offer an alternative to increasing global consumption of non-renewable energy and other resources. For Saskatchewan, with its abundant forests and 41 per cent of all the arable land in Canada, biofuels hold the promise of economic growth and diversification for our agriculture and forestry industries.

"It is a very exciting time, especially for agriculture in Saskatchewan, with the high potential for rapid growth in ethanol and biodiesel production," says the Honourable Lorne Calvert, Premier of Saskatchewan.

Biofuels are produced from various types of biomass. In Saskatchewan, there is a large and steady supply of the feedstock required, being primarily grains, oilseeds and cellulose from wood; and, since transporting the feedstock is one of the major costs in biofuel production, Saskatchewan has a distinct advantage because the resources are right here.

"The Province has been stressing its advantages as it works with the federal government towards national mandates for ethanol and biodiesel blending, all the while encouraging the development of both industries. To that end, the Province has been working with numerous project proponents as well as the Saskatchewan Ethanol Development Council and the Saskatchewan Biodiesel Development Task Force to help expedite the process."

To date, the federal government is promoting a mandate of five per cent use of biofuels by 2010. The federal mandate combines ethanol and biodiesel, without specifying a target for each fuel type. Saskatchewan continues to push the

Saskatchewan's considerable feedstock production and industry leadership role makes the province an ideal location for biofuel development.

federal government for a 10 per cent renewable fuels standard by 2010 and for the implementation of a two per cent biodiesel allocation by 2010, with an increase to five per cent by 2015. Saskatchewan is also calling on the federal government to ensure primary producer participation in rural community-based renewable fuel projects, whether that be through programs or inclusion in legislation. The Province is of the view that moving in that direction will see the greatest benefit for primary producers.

Saskatchewan has all the natural resource advantages needed to make this province the renewable fuels centre of excellence in Canada. How the federal government rolls out its renewable fuels mandate will directly affect whether primary producers in this province will see that become a reality. In addition to the opportunity for primary producer participation, farmers would be on the ground floor for benefits from biofuel production, and the producers of wheat and canola should benefit over the long haul.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Ken Magnus, RECD, at 787-0917.

CO-OPERATIVE RETAILING SYSTEM

Like other Co-op retail outlets across Saskatchewan, Kindersley Co-op has grown and evolved to meet the needs of its members.

By any measure, the Co-operative Retailing System (CRS) plays a vital role in communities across Saskatchewan. CRS refers to the 280 retail co-operatives that serve more than 1.2 million individual co-op members across Western Canada. Retail co-operatives are united as the CRS through their central wholesale body, Federated Co-operatives Limited (FCL), headquartered in Saskatoon.

Member co-ops, through FCL, own distribution centres, feed plants, a sawmill and plywood plant, and Consumers' Co-operative Refineries Limited (CCRL), a 90,000 barrel per day oil refinery. CCRL also operates a heavy oil upgrader in partnership with the Government of Saskatchewan.

The first retail co-ops were established in Saskatchewan in 1914, and seven of them – Bethune, Borden, Davidson, Hafford, Young, Melfort and Lloydminster – continue today. These are among the 160 retail co-ops serving approximately 225 communities across the province. In many communities, the co-op is the main retail outlet. In many locations, it is the only retailer, reflecting a commitment by local members to support local communities. In the past five years, Saskatchewan retail co-ops have invested more than $160 million in upgraded and new facilities.

"For Western Canadians, co-operatives have historically been the cornerstone of the local economy," FCL President Glen Tully said. "Co-operatives have strengthened communities by delivering more accessible and affordable services, while creating secure and fulfilling employment. While empowering individuals, co-operatives are building stronger economies and healthier communities whether it be rural or urban, large or small."

The CRS has adapted to a changing retail environment, and even though change can be controversial, it has done so while increasing its unity and cohesion. At the local level, co-ops innovate because of their relationship with their members and their communities. At the system level, co-ops innovate through working together.[1]

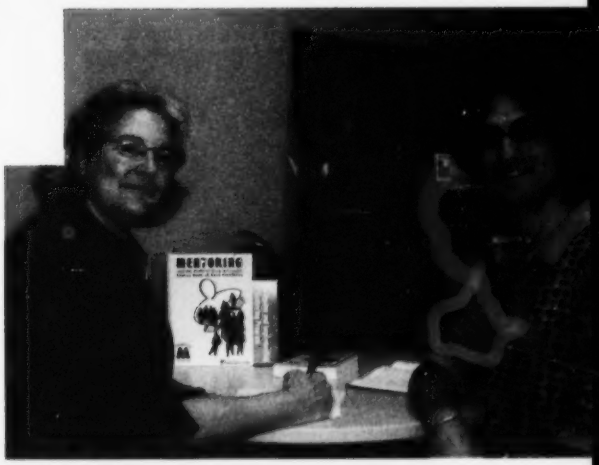
There are an estimated 400,000 retail co-op members in Saskatchewan (some individuals have more than one membership, making it difficult to produce precise numbers). These co-ops employ nearly 6,000 people; pay local and provincial taxes; and support local activities and events in their communities. Retail co-operatives have deep roots in Saskatchewan, and will continue to fulfill a vital role in the life of our province.

1 Fairbarn, Brett, Living the Dream: Membership and Marketing in the Co-operative Retailing System. Page 19.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Wayne Thrasher, RECD, at 787-0190; or
- Visit www.fcl.ca.

BMI SUPPORTS BUSINESS MENTORSHIP INITIATIVES



Barb Cox-Lloyd and Kyle Holinaty of the Business Mentorship Institute hope to be a valuable resource for organizations operating mentorship programs.

In January 2006, the Business Mentorship Institute (BMI) of Saskatchewan opened its doors, following about 18 months of research and planning. Throughout the process, the BMI steering committee discovered a strong interest in business mentorship in the business community, and felt that more support could be offered to existing mentorship programs and new ones.

"Mentorship has proven to be effective in increasing the success of businesses," states Barb Cox-Lloyd, BMI's Executive Director. "A similar program in Quebec illustrates that training is a key component in the success of a mentorship program. In order to provide that training, we're starting on a modest scale, assisting with five new mentorship programs." These include pilots in North Battleford (in partnership with the Battlefords Chamber of Commerce) and in southeast Saskatchewan (in partnership with the MEC Learning Centre – a second location to the Marieval Enterprise Centre located on the Cowessess First Nation). Local co-ordinators are selecting and matching protégés to mentors.

"I work with all parties in a hands-on support role, which is good because the Institute needs to know if the program is benefiting the organizations that are involved," she says. The BMI is currently guided by a board of directors which includes representatives from the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership, the provincial departments of Regional Economic and Co-operative Development (RECD) and Industry and Resources, and a representative of the Counselling Foundation of Canada. The CEO of the Entrepreneurial Foundation of Saskatchewan also sits on the Board, and the two organizations share an office location at Innovation Place in Saskatoon.

"As the Institute matures," Cox-Lloyd states, "it will provide more resources, training, marketing and promotional support to organizations operating mentorship programs. We hope to support a network of new programs organized to serve specific areas of the business community."

What are the ingredients in a successful mentorship relationship? Barb Cox-Lloyd says communicating effectively is at the top of the list. "Right at the beginning, both parties need to be able to answer the question, 'What do we want to do?' They have to set out their roles and expectations, and lay out what they will talk about, and anything that is off-limits, such as phoning on a Sunday afternoon. Clarity in roles and expectations makes for a better, more effective relationship."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Marilyn Day, RECD, at 787-8710;
- Call Bill Spring, RECD, at 787-2225;
- Call Barb Cox-Lloyd, BMI, at 964-2012; or
- Visit www.saskmentor.com.

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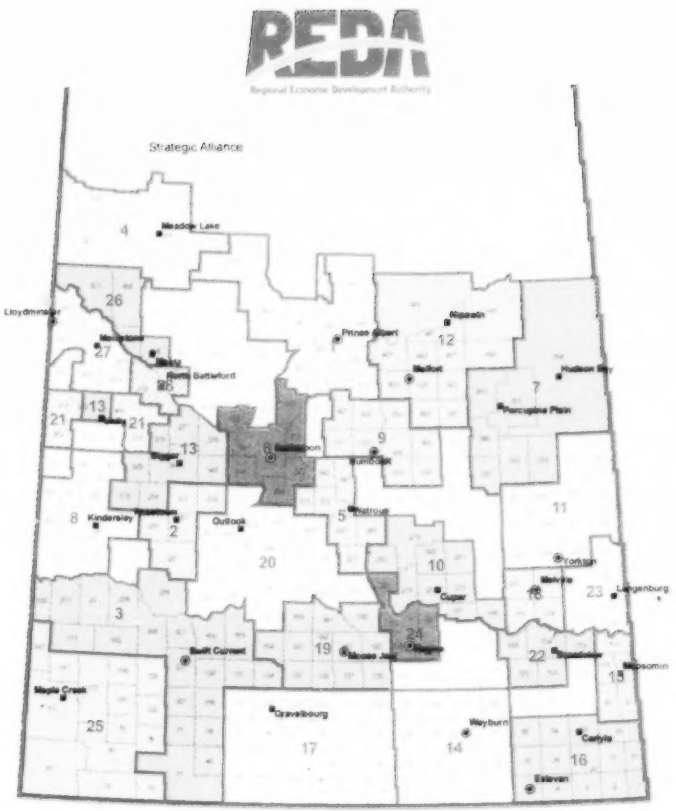
REDA ENHANCEMENT FUND LEVERAGES $4 MILLION FOR COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Since its inception in 1998, the REDA Enhancement Fund (REF), which currently totals $1.9 million, has been used by Saskatchewan's Regional Economic Development Authorities (REDAs) to leverage more than $4.1 million for 189 projects throughout Saskatchewan.

To date, these projects have yielded capital investments totalling more than $77 million and have helped to create 456 jobs and to maintain another 200.

The REF program, administered by Regional Economic and Co-operative Development, provides cost-shared funding for regional project development, including pre-feasibility studies, business plan development, and project management costs. In recognition of the importance of the Fund and of its positive impacts on regional economic development, the Province doubled REDA Enhancement Fund support in the 2006-07 budget from $150,000 to $300,000.

Projects which have benefited from this program include a $31 million intensive livestock operation in Porcupine Plain; a $22 million ethanol plant in Weyburn; a $6 million golf course south of Saskatoon; a $2.4 million feed processing plant in Stoughton; and a $500,000 life lease housing project in Maple Creek.



1. Prince Albert	953-4o88	16. Cornerstone	453-6097
2. Entrepreneurs 2000	882-1300	17. Red Coat	648-3525
3. Southwest	778-4240	18. South Parkland	728-6878
4. Northwest	236-2407	19. Moose Jaw	693-7335
5. Long Lake	946-2223	20. Mid Sask	867-9553
6. Saskatoon	664-0723	21. Border/	
7. Etomami	278-2311	Strategic Alliance	446-7506
8. West Central	463-1997	22. Mainline	696-2550
9. Carlton Trail	682-2631	23. Yellowhead	743-5177
10. Touchwood	723-4688	24. Regina	522-0227
11. Good Spirit	783-7332	25. Cypress Hills	662-4299
12. North East	862-6732	26. Prairie to Pine	892-2544
13. Midwest	948-2295	27. Big Gully/	
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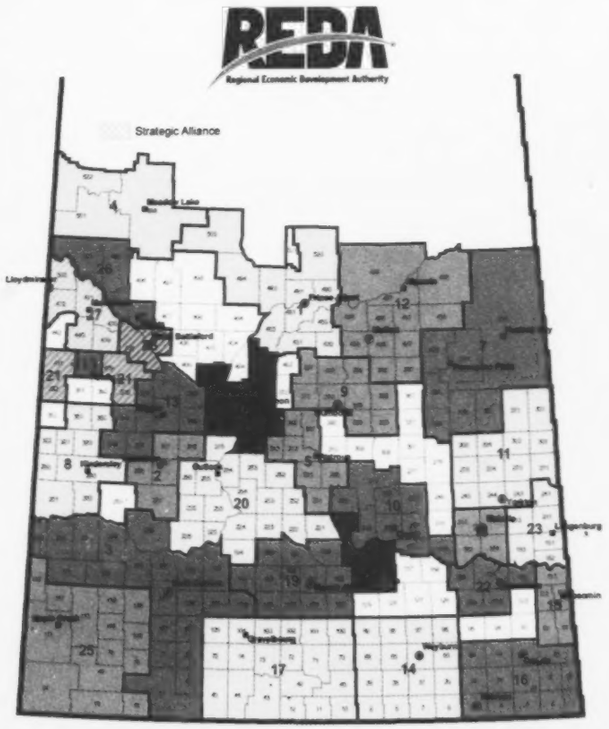

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ROETTGER FAMILY PERSONIFIES DIVERSIFICATION

Charlotte and Adrian Roettger love talking turkey at their poultry and meat business near Osage.

If you're looking for examples of successful on and off-farm diversification, look no further than Adrian and Charlotte Roettger. The couple are living the farm life they love from their home base near Osage, in southeast Saskatchewan.

The centrepiece of their diversification strategy is Roettger Poultry and Meats, a five-year-old business the couple began as a way of increasing their own chicken production, while also offering custom poultry butchering to other producers. The business now employs seven workers and also offers beef, pork, bison and wild game processing.

The Roettgers decided to start a new business when they realized that grain farming alone would not sustain the farm lifestyle they value. Their biggest hurdle was a common one: obtaining financing. After being turned down three times by traditional lenders, they applied for and received a $10,000 loan through the Cornerstone Regional Economic Development Authority (CREDA). The loan was made as part of Regional Economic and Co-operative Development's (RECD) Small Business Loans Association (SBLA) program.

"Thank God for CREDA," says Charlotte. "It is the reason we have a successful business today." Adrian built their new facility through his construction business, which enabled them to keep their start-up costs low. They also worked in the cold until they could afford to insulate the building. "Looking back, I really do wonder how we survived that first year," Charlotte muses. The reward for their sacrifice, she adds proudly, is that we were able to pay off loans totaling $15,000 three years ahead of schedule.

Besides working in the plant, the couple also share duties driving a school bus, and Charlotte earns extra money teaching belly dancing in nearby communities in the evening. How do they manage such busy lives? "Our customers notice how well we work together," Charlotte says. "We're organized, and I believe a really good team is the true recipe for success."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Linda Mack, RECD, at 637-4505;
- Call Charlotte and Adrian Roettger at 722-3510; or
- Call Cornerstone REDA at 453-6097.

NEW MANUFACTURER HONOURED IN MOOSE JAW

Brad Harvey, owner of CJAY Trailers Inc., is utilizing local opportunities to build and grow his business.

Soon after CJAY Trailers Inc. began manufacturing trailers in Moose Jaw in 2005, the company received a Business Excellence award for Best New Business, sponsored by the Moose Jaw and District Chamber of Commerce. Like many overnight success stories, however, there is more to it than that.

Company owner Brad Harvey spent about 25 years working for other manufacturers before setting out on his own. "I picked up a lot of skills along the way," he says, "and I took various courses that helped out on the management side of things."

Harvey chose to locate in Moose Jaw because the community was supportive, and the Moose Jaw Exhibition Company Limited had a building available on the grounds, where CJAY set up shop. "We worked closely with the Moose Jaw Regional Economic Development Authority (REDA), which has proven to be a great resource," he notes.

CJAY Trailers currently employs 25 welders, painters and finishers who produce more than 25 models of trailers; everything from general purpose cargo trailers to snowmobile and quad trailers. The products are marketed through 14 dealers in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. "We're looking to expand our dealer network into Manitoba and Ontario over the next 18 months," Harvey says.

He is also a great believer in the Manufacturing Cluster Initiative adopted by the Moose Jaw REDA. The initiative brings manufacturers in the area together to discuss common issues, share best practices and develop business relationships.

"I've been involved with it from the start, and I've gleaned lots of useful information from intelligent people who have been doing this a lot longer than I have, and are willing to share what they've learned," Harvey says. "The cluster works because a bunch is always better than one."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Barb Field, RECD, at 694-3623;
- Call Brad Harvey, CJAY Trailers, at 694-0445; or
- Visit www.cjaytrailers.com.

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BUILDING A BETTER BOW IN BIGGAR

Nibal and Katy Achkar have turned a passion for archery into a world-class sporting goods company based in small-town Saskatchewan.

What's left to do if you've created the second-fastest bow in the world? If you're Nibal Achkar, you fine-tune your design to create the fastest bow in the world, then you build and market it from home base in Biggar, Saskatchewan. Achkar has a strong base of archers and hunters waiting eagerly to get their hands on his powerful compound bows and other innovative archery products. His challenge now is to achieve a steady supply of the parts he needs to build the bows and meet the demand.

"This season (August-September) has been really busy," says Achkar, who was born and raised in Lebanon, and immigrated to Canada with his parents when he was eight years old. "I'm implementing a plan to resolve the parts issue, and I expect it will be fixed by next year."

Achkar's interest in hunting and archery began in childhood, and it was a hunting trip that led him to a restaurant in Biggar. The attraction was immediate, and by the end of the day he had bought the restaurant. For a while, he ran the restaurant and repaired archery equipment as a hobby. Archery repair eventually turned into a part-time business in the basement of the family home, and shortly thereafter he purchased another business – Al's Precision Archery – from the Bear Hills Rural Development Corporation.

Soon, the increase in traffic coming into the house prompted Achkar to take the major step of building a new pro shop and archery range on Main Street.

He began developing his own product line under the APA Innovations name, taking advantage of business planning help from the Midwest Regional Economic Development Authority/ Bear Hills Rural Development Corporation, and loans from the local Small Business Loans Association and Community Futures.

> "I'm already working on a cutting-edge 2007 product line, so I can stay ahead of the big companies."
>
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Achkar relies on word-of-mouth and his talent for innovation to keep his bows at the forefront of the industry. "I'm already working on a cutting-edge 2007 product line, so I can stay ahead of the big companies," he says.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Daniel Bean, RECD, at 446-7611;
- Call Nibal Achkar, APA Innovations, at 948-5101; or
- Visit www.apaarchery.com.

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YOU PROGRAM IS WIDE OPEN IN PA

YOU stands for Youth Opportunities Unleashed, but there was no age restriction when the program was recently delivered in Prince Albert (PA). Fourteen people, ranging in age from their 20s to their 50s, took part in the five evening classes, which introduce the basics of starting and operating a small business.

YOU training is an extension of the Small Business Loans Association (SBLA) program, which is managed by Regional Economic and Co-operative Development (RECD).

Representatives from the department and PA Community Futures delivered the training, which covers entrepreneurship, financing, business management and marketing.

"The participants were looking to get the information they need to start a new business or buy an existing one, particularly in the area of financing," says Wayne Cameron, one of the trainers from Prince Albert and District Community Futures Corporation (CFDC). "During that session we told the participants how they can access loans of up to $15,000 from the local SBLA to help with business start-ups and expansions. In addition, CFDC can provide loans up to $150,000."

Was the exercise worthwhile? Evan Richards, who owns and operates a gas bar in Prince Albert, thinks so. "If you are even thinking about getting into business, this workshop is a great starting point to steer you in the right direction."

Cameron adds, "It typically takes several months to more than a year for participants to bring their business idea to fruition. Two or three of our attendees have been in since the training course to talk with the loans manager. If we could get two or three business start-ups from each workshop, that would be exceptional."

The YOU program will be repeated in Prince Albert beginning in spring 2007. The cost is $75 for five evening sessions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Warren McLeod, RECD, at 953-3226;
- Call Wayne Cameron, CFDC, at 953-0720; or
- Visit www.recd.gov.sk.ca under Small Business Loans | Youth Opportunities Unleashed.

YOU workshops in Prince Albert have been well-attended by entrepreneurs of all ages.

FUTURE LEADERS TAKING CHARGE THROUGH NETWORKING

It has been suggested that every person in the world is linked to every other person with no more than five people in between, a concept known as "six degrees of separation." It means we have vast and varied networks of people we can tap into, and it's the idea behind the Future Leaders Group (FLG).

"Because of our small size, we only have two degrees of separation in Saskatchewan," observes Jeff Boutilier, the co-chair of the FLG. "That means there are plenty of opportunities for young people to have direct access to business leaders, and for networking and mentoring opportunities. By engaging young people and employers to come together and get a dialogue going, the FLG is a good example of the possibilities available," Boutilier adds.

Formed in 2002, the FLG is an offshoot of the Regina Regional Economic Development Authority. Its role is to contribute to the development of a diverse, entrepreneurial economy that attracts and retains young people. To help reach that goal, the FLG has created a document called "Taking Charge of Our Future." It sets out five strategies to bring together students, young entrepreneurs, professionals and employers who believe Regina and the surrounding area is a great place to live and work.

"There is intense global competition for talent, so one of our goals is to create a model for what works in attracting and retaining talent," Boutilier states. "This year, our focus is on developing checklists that will connect talented people with employers, and vice versa. Our 'Talent Savvy' initiative will identify and collaborate with employers to bridge the gap between opportunities and young people. 'Talent Search' will advertise youth-targeted career opportunities under the FLG banner. This initiative will also give employers a way to review their strategies for attracting and retaining talented people," he says.

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> Jeff Boutilier, FLG Co-chair

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Bill Spring, RECD, at 787-2225;
- Call RREDA Future Leaders Group at 522-0227; or
- E-mail futureleaders@rreda.com.

The Future Leaders Group is working to bring together students, young entrepreneurs, professionals and employers from Regina and the surrounding area.

FUTURE LEADERS TAKING CHARGE THROUGH NETWORKING

It has been suggested that every person in the world is linked to every other person with no more than five people in between, a concept known as "six degrees of separation." It means we have vast and varied networks of people we can tap into, and it's the idea behind the Future Leaders Group (FLG).

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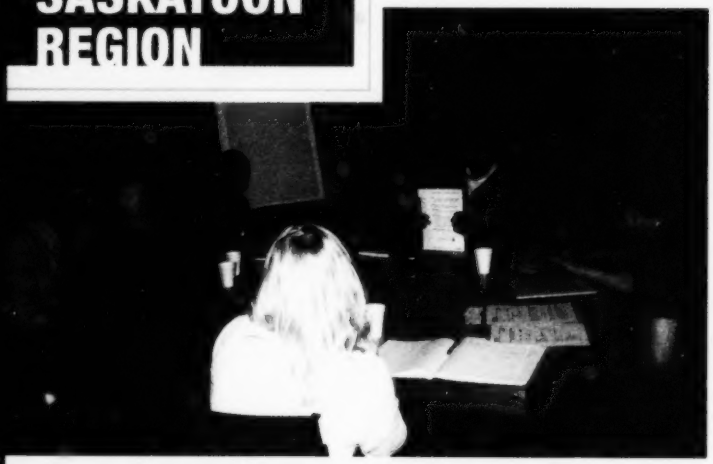

Members of Carlton Trail REDA have been working on ways to improve settlement services for immigrant workers and their families.

CARLTON TRAIL TACKLING IMMIGRANT SETTLEMENT ISSUES

A century after immigrants began flooding into Saskatchewan to establish homesteads and build communities, immigration is again in the spotlight. This time around, however, the need is to welcome people with specific skills that are in short supply in some areas.

Once they arrive, one of the key challenges is to ensure that these skilled workers – and their families – receive the support they need, and choose to stay in their chosen communities. That means developing effective responses to "settlement issues" such as workplace literacy, English as a second language, housing, and integration into the community – a challenge taken up by the Carlton Trail Regional Economic Development Authority (REDA), based in Humboldt.

Recognizing that industries in the region have had varying degrees of success in attracting and retaining immigrants, the REDA has teamed up with communities, industries, educational institutions and local and regional groups to find ways that work.

"We created a process that enabled local, regional and provincial stakeholders to identify the settlement issues, and then to develop possible solutions," says Rob Barber, CEO of the Carlton Trail Regional College and a REDA board member. "Our common goal is to develop a sustainable, consistent delivery model of settlement services for immigrant workers and their families settling anywhere in the region."

Currently, project working groups are discussing and documenting the best practices that industries and communities within the region have developed to address settlement issues. These best practices will be gathered into an electronic handbook that will be available on a regional website, likely linked to the REDA, community and major employer sites, Barber says. "The handbook will form the foundation that other communities and other regions of the province will be able to adapt to their own immigrant settlement needs," he adds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Kevin Fruhstuk, RECD, at 933-5757; or
- Call Rob Barber, Carlton Trail Regional College, at 682-2623.

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HAZLET SCHOOL GOES INTERNATIONAL

Imagine traveling from teeming Hong Kong to attend school in the Village of Hazlet, in southwestern Saskatchewan. This fall, the 40 local students at Hazlet School will welcome 13 students from Hong Kong, Thailand, Vietnam, Austria, Norway, Germany, Columbia, Venezuela and Nigeria – the results of an international program launched in 2005 with four students. Their parents pay tuition to the school to participate in English as a Second Language programming and standard academic classes.

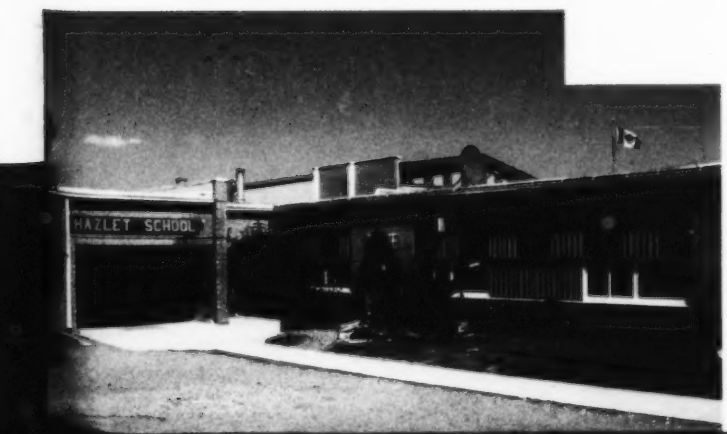
"This is one response to the challenge of declining enrollment, and it is relatively simple in terms of government approvals," says Kristy Sletten, the school's Principal and recruiting director for the program. "We found that farm stay programs are very popular, and the students enjoy coming to a community where everybody is friendly and welcoming. We've had unprecedented success for a rural program, but the biggest hurdle is building a global reputation, so that parents are comfortable sending their children to us."

To help build that reputation, Sletten recently attended education fairs in four cities in Japan. She plans two more recruiting trips this year, likely to Brazil and Thailand. The Southwest REDA also provides marketing support for the program. As an offshoot of the original program, Hazlet School began an International Choir Program this fall. Students involved in the choir will be asked to collect traditional and contemporary songs from their home country, adding to the cross-cultural flavour in the school.

"Our local students have made friendships through this program that will allow them to travel the world," Sletten states. "In addition, I anticipate many of our international students will come back to Saskatchewan for university, and some of them may choose to settle here. People from all over the world helped to build this province, and now they could have a role in shaping its future."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Dianne Sletten, RECD, at 778-8416; or
- Call Kristy Sletten, Hazlet School, at 678-2133.



Hazlet School will have a distinctly international flavour this year.

BE TURNS INTO BEES: LOTS OF BEES!

A BE (Business and Entrepreneurship) Youth Blast workshop held in Kyle last December has turned into what Josh Norleen hopes will be a profitable encounter with bees.

"I live on a farm, and I can't drive yet, so it's not convenient to get to town to start a business," Norleen says. "I borrowed some equipment from my cousin, and imported 30,000 bees from Australia (for $400). I've got about a quarter-million bees now."

By the time you read this he will be busy harvesting his first honey crop.

"Harvest is going to be pretty cool," he says. "Just with word of mouth, I expect a bunch of people will come out to buy honey."

The BE Youth Blast is a day-long workshop aimed at inspiring the entrepreneurial spirit in students from grades 7 to 12. It is presented by Southwest REDA.

For more information, call Josh Norleen at 375-2304, or call Southwest REDA at 778-4240.

Members of Carlton Trail REDA have been working on ways to improve settlement services for immigrant workers and their families.

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FOUNDATION ENABLES COMMUNITIES TO PULL TOGETHER

Community-focused organizations such as the Family & Friends Community Foundation (FFF) are helping communities make grassroots improvements that pay off. The group was established in 2003 to serve Spy Hill, Langenburg and Churchbridge, with help from the Yellowhead REDA. The foundation has accumulated about $940,000, with $500,000 in endowments serving as a permanent nest egg. Interest from the endowments is used to fund projects for seniors and youth, as well as health care, child care, culture and recreation.

> **The Foundation is a powerful catalyst for strengthening our communities.**
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"The Foundation is a powerful catalyst for strengthening our communities," states FFF board member and Yellowhead Regional Economic Development Authority general manager Kim Wondrasek. "It provides a link among the municipalities, so they can work together to provide a legacy for future generations."

While many projects are relatively small, the Foundation recently granted $300,000 to the Langenburg Community Theatre, through a donation by a local resident. The money was used to renovate the theatre for performers and audiences. "Langenburg has a very active Arts Council, and the more things going on at the theatre, the better it is for artists, retailers and other services in the area," Wondrasek says.

Family & Friends is the fourth community foundation in Saskatchewan, and more are likely to follow. It is common, Wondrasek notes, to see these "pulling together" initiatives in large centres, and at the provincial and national levels. "Community foundations are a catalyst for that kind of activity at the local level," she adds, "so communities can work together not just to survive, but to thrive."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Jenay Werle, RECD, at 786-1499;
- Call Kim Wondrasek, Yellowhead REDA, at 743-5177; or
- Visit

Kim Wondrasek of Yellowhead REDA (left) and Jan Fogg of the Langenburg Arts Council sit in front of Langenburg's theatre. Renovations are well underway.

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- Visit www.familyandfriendsfoundation.ca.

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COMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Phone	Web/Email	Location
Oct. 12	Saskatchewan Ethanol Symposium	297-3313	www.cypressagrienergy.com www.actionsouthwest.com	Shaunavon
Oct. 15-21	Co-operatives Week	787-0190	wayne.thrasher@gov.sk.ca	
Oct. 15-21	Small Business Week (Presented by the Business Development Bank of Canada)	780-6478 975-4822		
Oct. 16	Saskatchewan Co-operative Merit Awards	244-3702 244-2165	warren.crossman@sask.coop www.sask.coop	Regina
Oct. 18-19	12th Annual Business to Business Expo	757-4658	www.reginachamber.com	Regina
Oct. 18-19	Saskatchewan Economic Developers Association (SEDA) 2006 Fall Conference	384-5817	seda@seda.sk.ca www.seda.sk.ca	Prince Albert
Oct. 28	ABEX Awards	352-2671	pprokopiw@saskchamber.com www.saskchamber.com	Regina
Nov. 14-16	Building the Foundations for Community Economic Development: Prince Albert Grand Council's Community Economic Development Conference	953-7200 953-7200 953-7234	www.pagc.sk.ca	Prince Albert
Nov. 20-25	Canadian Western Agribition	565-0565	info@agribition.com www.agribition.com	Regina
Nov. 21	Business After Hours	757-4658	www.reginachamber.com	Regina

International Conference Will Focus on Building Regional Economies

In June 2007, Regina will host an international conference on business retention and expansion. For Saskatchewan Economic Developers Association (SEDA) President Dillon Shewchuk, the timing couldn't be better.

"Because community projects throughout the province have won national and international awards, Saskatchewan is seen as an emerging leader in this area," says Shewchuk.

Organizers expect more than 200 economic development practitioners will attend. Participants will learn about best practices in business retention and expansion and other economic development programs, tools and initiatives, based on experiences from other parts of the world.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Dallas Gislason, RECD, at 787-8188;
- Call Dillon Shewchuk, SEDA, at 384-5817; or
- Visit www.seda.sk.ca under Community Success | Business Retention and Expansion.

Saskatchewan Regional Economic and Co-operative Development

Toll free phone: 1-800-265-2001
Website: www.recd.gov.sk.ca

REGIONAL OFFICES

Estevan
303 Wicklow Centre
1133 - 4th Street, Box 5000
ESTEVAN SK S4A 0W6
Phone: (306) 637-4505
Fax: (306) 637-4510

Moose Jaw
88 Saskatchewan Street East
MOOSE JAW SK S6H 0V4
Phone: (306) 694-3623
Fax: (306) 694-3500

North Battleford
1202 - 101st Street
NORTH BATTLEFORD SK S9A 1E9
Phone: (306) 446-7444
Fax: (306) 446-7442

Prince Albert
Box 3003, 3rd Floor, City Hall
1084 Centre Avenue
PRINCE ALBERT SK S6V 6G1
Phone: (306) 953-2275
Fax: (306) 922-6499

Regina
1925 Rose Street
REGINA SK S4P 3P1
Phone: (306) 787-1605
Fax: (306) 787-1620

Saskatoon
345 - 3rd Avenue South
SASKATOON SK S7K 2H6
Phone: (306) 933-5750
Fax: (306) 933-7692

Swift Current
885 - 6th Avenue NE
SWIFT CURRENT SK S9H 2M9
Phone: (306) 778-8415
Fax: (306) 778-8526

Yorkton
23 Smith Street West
YORKTON SK S3N 0H9
Phone: (306) 786-1415
Fax: (306) 786-1417

CANADA-SASKATCHEWAN BUSINESS SERVICE CENTRE

Phone: (306) 956-2323
Toll free: 1-800-667-4374
Website: www.cbsc.org/sask
E-mail: saskatchewan@cbsc.ic.gc.ca

SASKBIZ

Website: www.saskbiz.ca